

MSc Thesis Opportunity: Forest Responses to Climate Change

The Forest Ecology Lab at the Institute of Plant Sciences of UniBe **seeks a motivated MSc student to investigate long-term forest responses to climate change using tree-ring data collected across Europe.**

The student will work with an extensive network of publicly available and group-collected data across Scandinavia, and they will be invited to join in the upcoming field campaigns across the Mediterranean (expenses covered), with the opportunity to define their own research questions and additional analyses.



This Thesis will be part of the **OpenRing** project, an European-level project focused on improving long-term ecological data and exploring forest biodiversity–stability relationships. The MSc student will be encouraged to develop independent research questions at global and plot-level scales. Research questions will be defined collaboratively with the student. Examples of potential topics include: 1) Influence of diversity on ecological stability across demography, 2) Species-specific responses to increasing drought, or 3) Intraspecific variation in climate resilience among Europe’s dominant tree species. The student will collaborate closely with the PI (Prof. Manzanedo), technician (Mrs. Miriam Frutiger), and PhD student (Zabdi López).

About you

You will design your research questions, analyze data, and gain hands-on experience in both the lab and the field, with strong support from the team. We are looking for an enthusiastic student eager to understand how climate and community dynamics shape tree responses across Europe. The project will involve both extensive fieldwork in remote areas and laboratory work processing samples.

About us

The Forest Ecology Lab at IPS is a recently established group led by Prof. Rubén Manzanedo. Our research spans forest ecology, long-term population dynamics, and climate change impacts. We work across Switzerland and Europe and are proud to be a diverse, international, and collaborative team committed to open and inclusive science.

If you are curious about what we are up to, visit: <https://rdmanzanedo.github.io/>

If we have piqued your interest, reach out for a chat at ruben.manzanedo@unibe.ch

